

ELECT OF GOD OR FREE WILL OF MAN?

1 Thess. 1:4

Election: You were divinely selected/chosen of God for eternal life. John 17:9

Questions:

You mean to say that God chose to save me whether I want to be saved or not?

Does this mean that God chooses not to save some and to save others?

What about man's choice or will?

Does God override a man's free will?

Then why witness?

Why give an invitation?

Why pray?

Any truth taken out of balance leads to heresy.

1. Free will of man

Man has a free will.

He chooses to receive Christ as his Lord and Savior or he chooses to reject Christ.

Extreme – all man and no God

2. Sovereignty of God

God draws, illuminates, convicts, brings a soul-winner, gives faith to believe, indwells, baptizes, regenerates, seals, gives a new family, manifests fruit, gives eternal life.

Extreme—all God and no man.

God does everything

God draws, convicts, implants believing faith, and directs this man's will towards Him.

Man has no choice

Which side?

We don't have to choose

We believe both!

Try to explain election, and you may lose your mind. But explain it away – and you may lose your soul!

Rom 11:5 Col 3:12 1 Pet 1:2 2 Pet 1:10

At the very foundation of a person's salvation is the divine election of God.

A. **Doctrine of Salvation.**

1. Salvation always starts with God. 2 Th 2:13 John 15:16 Eph 1:4

The plan of God to save mankind began in the heart of God ions of years before the universe was even formed.

2. Salvation is motivated by God's love Rom 5:8
3. Salvation involves the grace of God. John 1:17 Acts 15:11 Rom 3:24 Eph 2:8
4. Salvation comes as a result of repentance and faith

Acts 20:21 ... *repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Faith: Placing one's complete trust and reliance on Lord Jesus Christ for a personal relationship with God and eternal life.

A transfer of trust from good works and religion to the finished work of Christ on the cross

Repentance: Emphasis on essence of God... holiness, god-head

Attitude of salvation

Faith: Emphasis on function (role or purpose)

Direction of salvation

Repentance:

I.S.B.E:

OT: ... *A radical change in one's attitude toward sin and God. It implies a conscious moral separation and a personal decision to forsake sin and to enter into fellowship with God.*

NT: *To have another mind. To change the opinion or purpose with regard to sin. This word is used to express the spiritual transition from sin to God.*

Wuest: *Repentance "includes not only the act of changing one's attitude towards and opinion of sin but also that of forsaking it. Sorrow and contrition with respect to sin, are included in the Bible idea of repentance, but these follow and are consequent upon the sinner's change of mind with respect to it....The act of repentance is based first of all and primarily upon an intellectual apprehension of the character of sin, man's guilt with respect to it, and man's duty to turn away from it."*

5. Salvation involves the Trinity
 - God the Father's point of view: I was saved when He chose me in Christ before the foundation of the world.
 - God the Son's point of view : Salvation was offered to me the day He died for me on the cross.
 - God the Spirit's point of view: There was a point in time when He drew me to Christ....
6. Salvation changes a person's life from the inside out.
2 Cor 5:17 John 16:8

B. Doctrine of election.

1. It (election) is from eternity Eph 1:4-5
2. It is demonstrated in a person's life. 1 Th 1:4
3. It is sovereign and unconditional. Eph 2:8,9
4. It is Just Rom 9:14-15
5. It is for both the Gentile and the Jew. Rom 11:5
6. It won't change and is unconditional. Rom 11:29

Some say if a person has been elected he is going to be saved regardless of whether or not he trusts Christ, whether or not there is a genuine change in his life.

Hendrichson: *This idea "is wicked and absurd. No true and sane believer of any denomination, whether he be Methodist, Baptist, Calvinist, Lutheran, or whether he belongs to any other denomination or religious group, will ever subscribe to it..."*

7. Jesus taught it. John 17:2, 9

So What? Which is right?

Mac: *The matter of human will and divine election is so inscrutable, so incomprehensible to our minds, as to demand that we believe both without being able to comprehend how they fit together in God's mind.*

Any truth out of balance leads to heresy!

Dr. Richard Fuller: *It is impossible for us to reject either of these great truths...I embrace both doctrines. Nay, more; I see clearly that if I reject either of these great truths and cling to the other, it will tow me away into fathomless depths of folly and impiety.*

Dr. Thomas (co-founder of Dallas Theo. Sem): *Both sides are to be emphasized without any attempt at reconciliation. We must not isolate either the divine or the human side and consider one apart from the other.*

Phillips, 273-274: *We must always remember that knowledge is based on fact. If something is to be known, the fact will just be there to be known. Our knowledge is after-knowledge – we know a fact after that fact is established. God's knowledge is not only after-knowledge, it is also foreknowledge, but, even so, it is based on fact...God's ability to ordain people to eternal life never operates apart from their ability to obey the gospel as an act of their will. The operations are two sides of the same coin. Over one side of the door of salvation is written: "Whosoever will may come." Once we have passed the portals we can see written on the other side, "Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world." In his own inimitable way, D.L. Moody used to say, "The elect are the whosoever wills and the non-elect are the whosoever won't's"*

Gaebelin (well known writer and one of the consulting editors of the Old Scofield Bible) commenting on Pink... *5 point Calvinist. I recently read this book and it has upset me as no other book I ever read. I was attacked by terrible doubts as to God's justice and His very being! The book is akin to blasphemy. It presents God as a being of injustice and maligns His Holy character. It denies that our blessed Lord died for the ungodly and that He only died for the elect...It is just this kind of teaching which makes atheists.*